



# Iowa General Assembly

## 2008 Committee Briefings

LSA – Legal Services Division

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### MEDICAID ELDERLY WAIVER PROGRAM STUDY COMMITTEE

Meeting Dates: [November 13, 2008](#)

**Purpose.** *This compilation of briefings on legislative interim committee meetings and other meetings and topics of interest to the Iowa General Assembly, written by the Legal Services Division staff of the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency, describes committee activities or topics. The briefings were originally distributed in the Iowa Legislative Interim Calendar and Briefing. Official minutes, reports, and other detailed information concerning the committee or topic addressed by a briefing can be obtained from the committee's Internet page listed above, from the Iowa General Assembly's Internet page at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/>, or from the agency connected with the meeting or topic described.*

### MEDICAID ELDERLY WAIVER PROGRAM STUDY COMMITTEE

November 13, 2008

**Co-Chairperson:** Senator Amanda Ragan

**Co-Chairperson:** Representative Lisa Heddens

**Background.** The Legislative Council established the Medicaid Elderly Waiver Program Study Committee to review the services, costs, and requirements under the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Elderly Waiver Program, to consult with the Department of Human Services and persons interested in the program, and to make recommendations for appropriate changes to the program. The study committee was allotted one meeting day.

**Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS).** Mr. Gene Gessow, Director, DHS, and Ms. Eileen Creager, Long-Term Care Bureau Chief, DHS, provided an overview of Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waivers, including medical and financial eligibility requirements, services and cost limits, number of consumers receiving services, and federal compliance requirements.

**Iowa Alliance in Home Care.** Mr. Mark Wheeler, Iowa Alliance in Home Care, and two of the agency's members, Ms. Elizabeth Sutter, Iowa Health Home Care, and Mr. Andy Bagchi, Iowa Home Care, presented issues identified with the current elderly waiver program and recommendations for improvement in the program. The recommendations included an increase in provider reimbursement, reimbursement for travel time and mileage for providers, and utilization of and reimbursement for telemonitoring.

**Department of Elder Affairs (DEA).** Mr. John McCalley, Director, DEA, presented information regarding the complementary provision and utilization of services under the DEA's Case Management Program for the Frail Elderly (CMPFE) and the Medicaid elderly waiver. He noted that based on the unmet needs survey that reflects unmet service needs for elderly lowans as reported to DEA by the 13 area agencies on aging, a total of \$1.1 million in additional funding is needed to cover unmet service needs in FY 2007- 2008.

**Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging (i4a).** Ms. Donna Harvey, Director, Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging, and President, i4a, reported that 12 of the 13 area agencies on aging currently provide case management services to consumers through the Medicaid elderly waiver serving over 8,000 consumers. She noted that while increased paperwork and other requirements add to the time commitment of staff, they also provide a good check and balance system to keep consumers safe. Some concerns include ensuring that consumers participating in the Medicaid Consumer Directed Attendant Care Program have adequate quality control and working to determine the actual cost of case management services in order to provide an accurate reimbursement rate.

**Visiting Nurse Services (VNS).** Ms. Mary O'Brien and Ms. Diane Burkert, presented on behalf of VNS. VNS serves approximately 160 clients through the Medicaid elderly waiver and also provide over 39 other services to various populations in Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk, Story, and Warren counties. Ms. O'Brien presented client profiles, including that the majority of those served are non-English speaking, are very fragile, are isolated, and have neglected health needs. As a case manager, Ms. Burkert described specific examples of consumers who have thrived due to the services provided. One concern is that reimbursement for case management under the elderly

waiver is limited to \$70 per month while the actual cost per client is over \$79.

**Iowa Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (IAHSA).** Ms. Dana Petrowsky, President and CEO, IAHSA, discussed the needs of seniors utilizing the Medicaid elderly waiver, including those in assisted living. The IAHSA supports an increase in the elderly waiver rate cap and provided a new formulary for determining the rate, based upon a percentage of nursing facility reimbursement. Ms. Petrowsky also noted the importance of funding provided through the Senior Living Trust Fund and the need to pursue an assisted living waiver as was proposed in legislation enacted in 2005.

**Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA)/Iowa Center for Assisted Living (ICAL).** Ms. Cindy Baddello, IHCA Deputy Director, and ICAL Director; Ms. Jeanine Chartier, Char-Mac Assisted Living, Holstein/Lawton; Ms. Suzanne Menke, Kensington, Fort Madison; and Ms. Stacy Hejda, Assisted Living Partners, presented information as members of the IHCA/ICAL. Ms. Baddello provided a description of the current tenants in assisted living programs in the state and recommended implementation of an assisted living services description to the daily payment rate levels under the Medicaid elderly waiver in order to make assisted living more accessible to consumers. She provided information on the payment rates of other states for assisted living payment rates under Medicaid. Ms. Chartier, Ms. Menke, and Ms. Hejda provided insight as assisted living providers. Their concerns included regulatory requirements and paperwork, including the provider self- assessment.

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